United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
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U.S. EPA Announces Changes in Ormet Site Cleanup Remedy

Ormet Corporation Superfund Site
Monroe County, Ohio June 1997

This fact sheet . . .

- provides site background information.
- outlines cleanup remedy changes and why changes were made.
- lists sources for additional information.

You're Invited!

Come meet the U.S. EPA representatives who have been working on cleanup activities at the Ormet site:

Open House/Availability Session
Date: *Monday, July 14, 1997*
Place: *New Martinsville Public Library 160 Washington Street New Martinsville, West Virginia*
Time: *Any time between 7 and 8:30 p.m.*

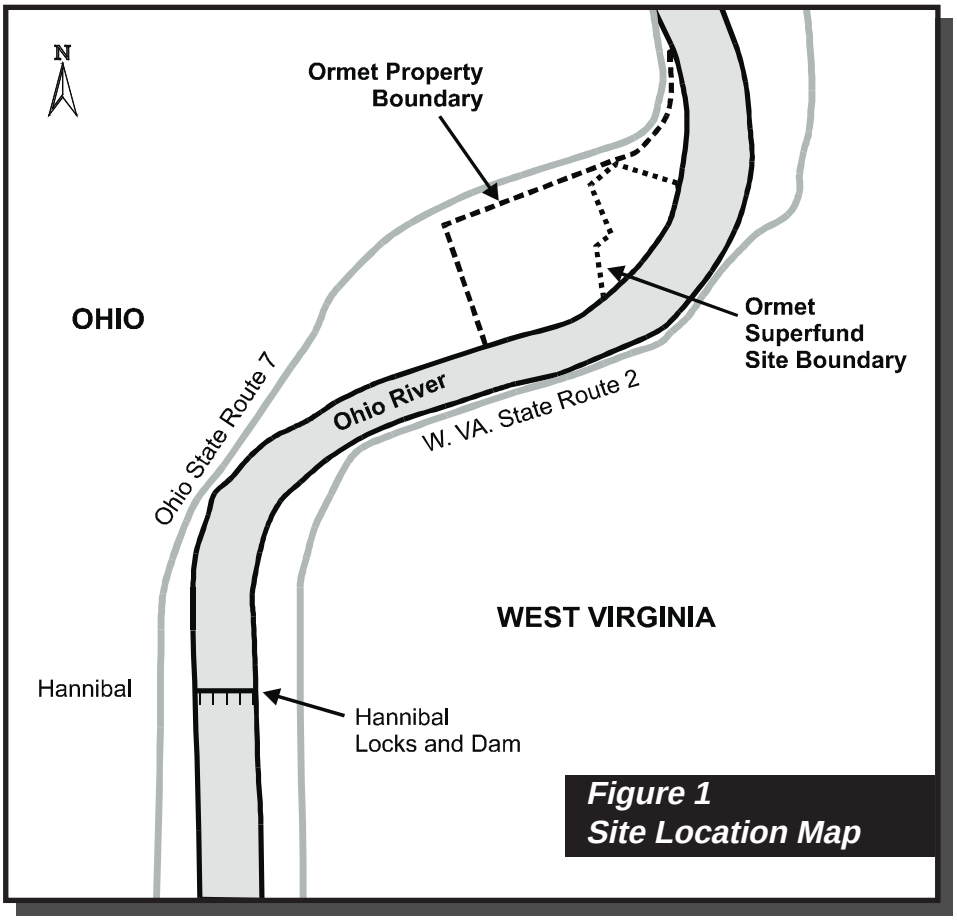

Figure 1 Site Location Map

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has issued a document called an explanation of significant differences to explain and justify changes in the cleanup remedy for the Ormet Corporation Superfund site (Ormet site)[1]. These changes will expedite site cleanup and significantly reduce cleanup costs. This fact sheet summarizes background information about the Ormet site and explains the changes to the site cleanup remedy.

[1]Under Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, U.S. EPA is required to publish an explanation of significant differences between the remedial action taken and the record of decision (ROD).

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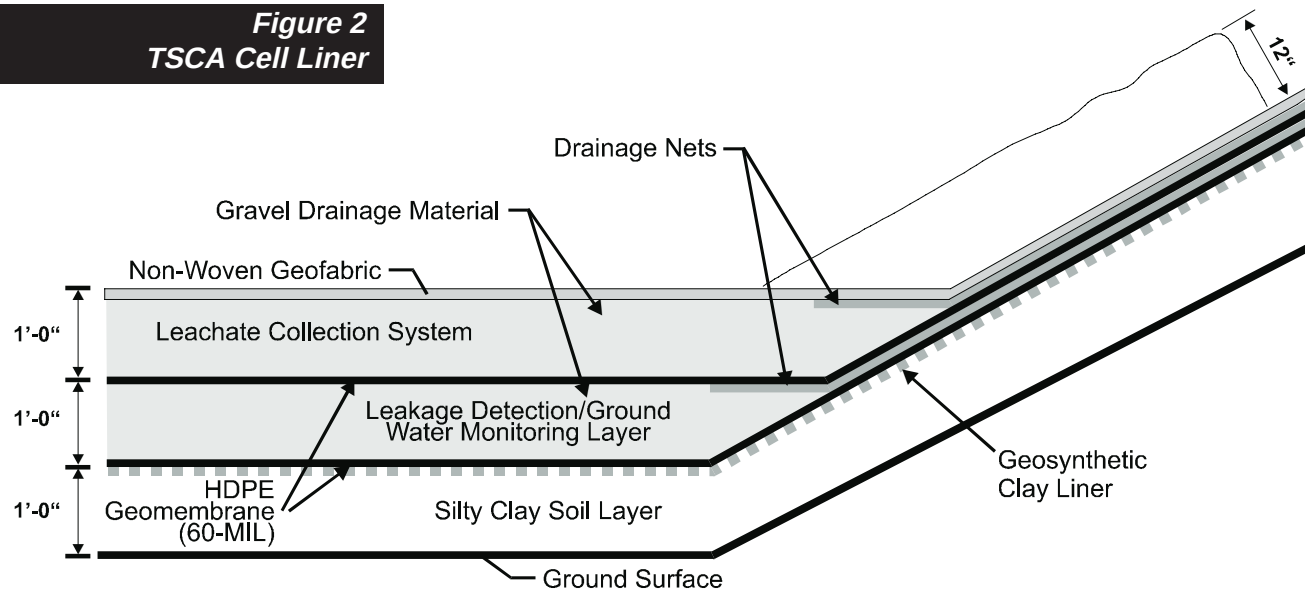
Figure 2
TSCA Cell Liner



Background Information

The Ormet Corporation site is in Monroe County, Ohio, north of the city of Hannibal. The site is located between the west bank of the Ohio River and Ohio State Route No. 7 (Figure 1).

The Ormet Corporation has operated a primary aluminum reduction facility at the site since 1958. Site contamination resulted from storage and disposal activities over the years related to facility operations.

After several environmental investigations in the late 1970s and early 1980s, U.S. EPA placed the Ormet site on the National Priorities List in 1985. In May 1987, U.S. EPA, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and Ormet Corporation entered into a legal agreement called an Administrative Order of Consent. Ormet Corporation agreed to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the site under the supervision of U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA. The RI/FS process defines the nature and extent of site contamination and evaluates cleanup alternatives to determine the most cost effective way to protect human health and the environment.

Site areas investigated included disposal and storage areas, ground water, sediments in the Ohio River and backwater areas, and air. Investigation results indicated low to moderate levels of contamination in all media and sources sampled. Contaminants of concern included cyanide, fluoride, chromium, arsenic, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

In March 1994, U.S. EPA proposed a plan to clean up the site. Public comments about the cleanup plan reflected community concern for the economic viability of Ormet Corporation and the financial burden cleanup costs could pose for the company. In September 1994, U.S. EPA signed a record of decision

(ROD), authorizing a cleanup remedy that included the following components:

- •On-site ground-water pumping and treatment.
- •Trench drains to collect leachate seeps.
- •Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) cover over landfill.
- •In situ (in place) soil flushing.
- •Soil excavation and disposal in on-site RCRA covered landfill.
- •Dredging and disposal of sediments. Sediments with concentrations of 50 or more parts per million (ppm) would be sent off site for disposal; sediments with less than 50 ppm of PCBs would be placed in the on-site RCRA covered landfill.
- •Limits on the use of site land and groundwater.

Explanation of Significant Differences

The 1994 ROD provided for the removal and consolidation of PCB-contaminated soils down to a level of 1 part per million (ppm). Another part of the remedy requires that soil with PCB levels above 50 ppm be placed in an off-site Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) landfill. U.S. EPA modified these provisions in the following way:

An on-site TSCA-compliant cell will be built to contain all PCB-contaminated soils excavated at the site. This change was made because the volume of PCB-contaminated soil is greater than anticipated, resulting in higher material handling and disposal costs. Placing the PCB-contaminated soils excavated at the site into an on-site TSCA-compliant cell will protect human health and the environment and save almost $1 million dollars in disposal costs.

In addition, field methods do not allow for reliable, on-site testing of PCBs in soil to the level of 1 ppm; thus, testing needs to be confirmed by a laboratory. To expedite construction, Ormet will have the option, should laboratory testing indicate that a 10 ppm PCB level was attained, but not a 1 ppm PCB level, to place a 10-inch layer of clean soil over the area rather than to excavate additional material.

U.S. EPA changed the Ormet site cleanup remedy for two major reasons. First, Ormet Corporation requested to be allowed to construct an on-site containment cell because more contaminated soil was found than expected, significantly increasing off-site disposal costs. The on-site TSCA cell saves about $1 million over off-site disposal. Second, comments during the public comment period on the proposed cleanup plan indicated community concern for Ormet's viability and the effect cleanup costs could have on the company. U.S. EPA believes these changes, which protect human health and the environment, also are in line with the community's interest in protecting the economic viability of Ormet Corporation.

What is a TSCA cell?

A Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) cell is a specially designed containment cell, with a double liner, leachate collection system, and a monitoring layer (Figure 2). It is designed to handle materials, such as PCBs. A TSCA cell is a proven treatment technology to protect human health and the environment.

Cleanup Schedule

Spring/Summer 1997
- •Excavate material.
- •Construct TSCA cell.
- •Deposit PCB-contaminated soil in TSCA cell.
- •Place RCRA cover over landfill.
- •Construct soil flushing system (flushing is a separate action that is being done to speed up soil cleanup).
- •Ongoing, on-site ground-water pumping and treatment.

Fall 1997
- •Construction complete.

Spring 1998
- •Remedial activities complete, except for ongoing ground-water treatment and monitoring.

Sources For Additional Information

The explanation of significant differences and other site-related documents are available for public review at the Ormet site information repositories. An information repository contains documents used to make Superfund decisions. U.S. EPA encourages citizens to visit the Ormet information repositories at the following locations:

Monroe County District Library
96 Home Avenue
Woodsfield, Ohio

New Martinsville Public Library
160 Washington Street
New Martinsville, West Virginia

Citizens may also contact the following representatives for more information:

U.S. EPA
Ginny Narsete (P-19J)
Community Involvement Coordinator
(312) 886-4359
e-mail: narsete.virginia@epamail.epa.gov

Tony Rutter (SR-6J)
Remedial Project Manager
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e-mail: rutter.tony@epamail.epa.gov

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